

3-13-2017

Columbia Chronicle (03/13/2017)

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (03/13/2017)" (March 13, 2017). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago.

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Speakers announced
for annual TEDx
conference

PAGE 3

Chicago luthiers make
instruments the old-
fashioned way

PAGE 20



March
13
2017

Blood Ball royalty decrees inclusivity

» CONNOR CARYNSKI
CAMPUS REPORTER

AS MUSIC PLAYED through the night, students flooded the dance floor—some bobbing gently to the beat, others flailing wildly at a pace no cadence could match—all with fervor and a willingness to momentarily forget about impending midterms during Columbia's 11th annual Blood Ball.

The theme of the March 9 dance, held in the Conaway Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., was inspired by Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass." The yearly event was created to pay homage to Mary Ann Blood, who co-founded the college with Ida Morey Riley in 1890, and planned by student representatives from the Student Government Association, Student Organization Council, Student Athletic Association, Student Programming Board and Residence Hall Association.

SEE BLOOD BALL, PAGE 9

Hiring for nonexistent department undermines college input

» MEGAN BENNETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If program changes are pending approval, but the college goes forward with them anyway, are they really pending at all?

Announced in a March 10 email from Dean of the School of Media Arts Eric Freedman, an internal search is underway for an interim chair of a merged Cinema and Television Department. The college is advertising for a full-time tenured faculty member who “demonstrate[s] a strong investment in fostering a climate of open collaboration.” The posting said the review will begin March 24, and gave a June 1 start date.

This post raises a glaring red flag: Columbia does not have a Cinema and Television Department.

Freedman announced a proposal for a possible merger of the Television and Cinema Art and Science departments, as reported Feb. 21 by The Chronicle, but the merger has not been approved by Senior President and Provost Stan Wearden. Students were also asked to give feedback through open forums, but those are yet to be completed. The first one occurred Feb. 20, which had incredibly low turnout, and the second is scheduled for March 15. Promoting this position not only shows student voices aren’t taken seriously if they do not support the mergers, but it also shows that the few students who showed up in February to express concerns wasted their time on a formality with little or no impact. College leaders will move forward with whatever projects they want without sufficient input.

College spokesperson Anjali Julka said institutions often search for job candidates whether or not a position exists at that time, but did not respond to questions regarding this specific incident as of press time.

Noted in a March 6 Chronicle editorial, most students are unaware of this merger proposal, which means Freedman should be considering additional steps to alert them of the actual benefits, whether that means going to classrooms himself or having faculty or staff address them. The focus should be on awareness at this time, not on recruiting for a nonexistent position.

Another issue is where this leaves the current chairs of the Cinema Art and Science and Television departments. There has been no explanation of what will happen



to their positions. The two likely scenarios are that the chairs either leave or return to full-time faculty. However, if they were to stay, Columbia cannot afford to pay faculty members a chair-level salary, which, indicative from the college’s Form 990 tax documents from the past several years, is what happens when someone at that level takes a lesser position.

Beginning this work already could be seen as proactive while the merger is pending approval, but it also could sway decision-makers to give the seal of approval without hearing thorough feedback, especially if SMA is already putting time and resources into a chair search. It also makes it seem as if the decision is already made, which, in addition to disregarding student input, may make some faculty and staff members feel as if their opinions are less important than those at the top.

When approving or denying these mergers, the Office of the Provost needs to take the thoughts of faculty, staff and students more seriously than those who have created this proposal. They need to wait until all feedback that has been asked for is given, potentially even requesting more from the college’s shared governance bodies, and move beyond the micromanaging.

Even if campus leaders are not doing so, the community should still treat this proposal for what it is: a suggestion rather than a fait accompli. There should be no pressure to move forward with it unless it truly is the best option for students. This premature chair search only adds to the college’s top-down atmosphere that detracts from the inclusion Columbia so often preaches about.

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CORRECTION: In a March 6 story published by The Chronicle titled “One year, 900 students lost: Spring enrollment drops again,” the story states: “The administration declined to answer additional questions including ones on the spring 2016 to spring 2017 comparison and whether enrollment will be reflected in a tuition increase.” However, in a March 3 email, college spokeswoman Anjali Julka stated “no additional tuition increases are expected beyond those already announced in Nov[ember] 2016.” The Chronicle regrets this error.



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Comedian and entrepreneur Peter Kim is one of 10 speakers to be a part of this year's TEDx conference at Columbia.



Artist and founder of the Shanti Foundation, Indra Freitas Johnson will be speaking at the TEDx conference April 1 about her public art project, Ten Thousand Ripples.



» Courtesy TESS CARMODY AND ASHLEY MAHS

Artist Jim Bachor's speech will cover his experiences being held back by social pressures in the Shine Your Own Light section of the event.

TEDx speakers to 'Evoke Presence'

» ARIANA PORTALATIN
CAMPUS EDITOR

COLUMBIA'S THIRD TEDx conference will feature 10 individuals from various backgrounds speaking about the theme of "evoking presence" in their lives and careers during the annual event scheduled for April 1.

Since 2015, Columbia's chapter of TEDx, modeled after but separate from TED Talks, offers a day of speeches on a particular theme.

Senior public relations major and TEDx Managing Director Ashley Maahs said the idea for this year's theme emerged during a group meeting.

"We just talked about different themes and visuals and all just came to this idea of each of our presences within the room and then we were like, 'Well, what about the whole idea of evoking presence within each other?'" Maahs said.

Officially announced during the March 8 sneak-peek event held at the HAUS, 623 S. Wabash Ave., the speakers for this year's conference at the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave., include Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department professor Stephen Asma; comedian and entrepreneur Peter Kim; artist and

photographer Kacy Johnson; "We All Live Here" founder and artist Rich Alapack; chef and author Jocelyn Adams; artist Jim Bachor; Girl Engagement Officer for Girlforward Sajana Kantayya; physicist for Argonne National Lab Volker Rose; BET President of Media Sales Louis Carr and artist and founder of the Shanti Foundation Indra Freitas Johnson.

According to TEDx President and senior business and entrepreneurship major Tess Carmody, the conference has three parts: Internal Presence, Shining Your Own Light and Helping Others' Lights Shine On.

"The speakers are all focusing their presence within the community [and] what they've learned, so through their talks, they're going to be trying to evoke those thoughts and ideals they've had throughout their life," Carmody said.

Freitas Johnson, who will be speaking in the Helping Others' Lights Shine On section, said her speech will trace the steps she took in her life to build her public art project advocating for community engagement for peace and nonviolence, Ten Thousand Ripples.

"It starts with my childhood and the small steps taken at that time, which had such a presence in the bigger picture, my life now and the public art project," Johnson said.

Kim, who will be speaking in the Internal Presence section, said the theme means living an honest life. He is most recently known for leaving his dream job as an actor and comedian at The Second City because of hate speech and verbal harassment he experienced while performing, as discussed in an Oct. 26, 2016, Chicago Magazine essay.

"[My speech is] going to be very autobiographical," Kim said. "I will be hitting up on my personal story and how I have used my comedy to evoke a more honest and powerful truth within myself."

Although Kim has performed in public, he said his speaking experience has never been in a noncomedic environment. He is nervous about his speech, but said he is excited to hear from the other speakers and hopes audience members feel empowered by his talk.

"I hope people take away an empowerment of themselves and a excitement to apply that to themselves and the world around them," Kim said. "We're living in such a troubled time right now, so I'm hoping my TEDx will help inspire people to lead a more powerful life through vulnerability."

Bachor, speaking in the Shine Your Own Light section, said he felt honored to be a part of the conference and jumped at the opportunity, although it will be his first time doing a TED talk. He added that his speech will discuss his experiences of feeling held back because of his worry of what others would think.

"[The theme] strikes home about how I've struggled through the years in terms

of taking risks and being skittish about doing stuff that might be out of the norm," Bachor said. "Hopefully, folks that go to this series will be a little more emboldened to pursue what they want without worrying about any kind of baggage from what other people might think."

Maahs said she hopes those who attend the April 1 event will be influenced by the talks and the speakers, something she noticed during last year's conference as well.

"We just hope that they leave feeling inspired with one new idea, or realization or view on the world from seeing at least one speaker [and] they just find that connection," Maahs said.

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» G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE

Columbia's TEDx organization held their March 8 sneak-peek event to give a preview of the April 1 conference's guest speakers.

Green club blooms on campus

» **CONNOR CARYNSKI**
CAMPUS REPORTER

COLUMBIA'S ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL organization, the Green Roots Club, is working to produce local change through projects that support endangered animals and city planting.

The group, which began this semester, comes at a time when the Trump Administration has proposed possibly crippling cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency budget.

President Donald Trump's policies undermine efforts from environmental groups and cause people to lose interest in eco-friendly living, said Bre Kloski, Green Roots Club president and junior cinema art and science major.

"We have this leader and we may not like him, but we have to understand: We have to do what we can do right now," Kloski said. "We have to observe, we have to

understand, we have to resolve and find solutions toward a better community that's going to help build sustainability."

In a recent White House budget proposal for 2018, the EPA stands to lose more than one-fifth of its funding. If passed, the proposal could reduce, and even eliminate, dozens of environmental programs and lay off about 19 percent of the agency's workers.

Kloski and Scott Strom, club vice president and sophomore theatre major, founded the club after running into each other at a North Dakota Access Pipeline protest in Chicago and later deciding Columbia needed an environmentally focused student organization. The group of about eight people has held two meetings so far and scheduled a third for March 16 in Room 216 of the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building.

"To care about the environment is a thing we should all be doing and is a normal practice,"

Strom said. "Within this political climate, it is hard for us to affect things on a national scale. All we can do is within our community, teaching people and giving them a voice as well."

Keith Kostecka, associate professor in the Science and Mathematics Department and the club's faculty adviser, was able to help Kloski and Strom navigate the process of establishing Green Roots,

having established a soccer club previously at Columbia.

"I want to be able to help, but I don't want to be overbearing because it is a student club, and I don't want it to seem that it is a club that is running according to the interests of faculty members here," Kostecka said.

Other faculty members have expressed interest in the club because it spurs scientific interest

in artistic students, according to Kloski.

Strom agreed about the department's interest in the club.

"At an art school, it is easy for the Science and Mathematics Department to get overshadowed because people don't usually come here for that," Strom said. "[The department] sees the importance that our club can have within the college, especially relating to science and the environment."

Strom said plans are already being made for an Earth Day event, for which attendees will have the opportunity to support an endangered animal at the Lincoln Park Zoo through donations.

Kloski said the club only has eight members but is looking to expand and create additional activities to attract greater membership.

"A club like ours may not be able to help the city as a whole right away but just getting Columbia to be an eco-friendly school is a good start," Kloski said.



Green Roots Club president, Bre Kloski, junior cinema art and science major, and other members of the club met with faculty advisor Keith Kostecka, Science and Mathematics Department associate professor, March 9 to discuss plans for an Earth Day event.

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Tuesday March 14 Progressive Rock Ensemble: Showcase in Concert Student Piano Recital #3 at the Sherwood	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
Wednesday March 15 Wednesday Noon Guitar Concert Series at the Conaway Joshua Griffin Senior Recital	12:00 pm 7:00 pm
Thursday March 16 Student Piano Recital #4 at the Sherwood Donny McCaslin Residency Concert at the Jazz Showcase For tickets, visit JazzShowcase.com or call 312-369-8330	7:00 pm 8 & 10 pm
Friday March 17 Donny McCaslin Residency Concert at the Jazz Showcase For tickets, visit JazzShowcase.com or call 312-369-8330	8 & 10 pm
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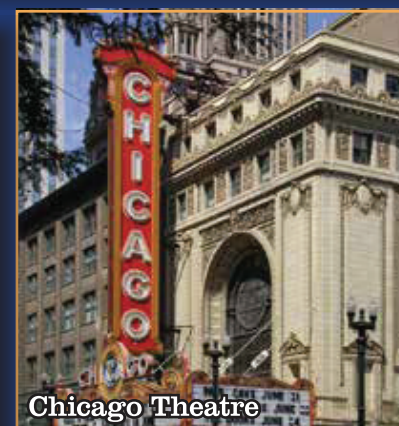
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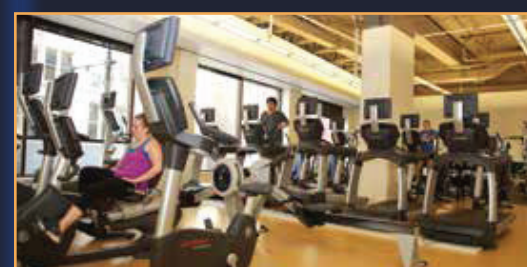


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Student group to raise money for female empowerment

» **ARIANA PORTALATIN**
CAMPUS EDITOR

COLUMBIA'S STUDENT PROGRAM-MING Board will be hosting a concert March 16 to raise funds for Chicago's Girls Rock!, a nonprofit organization promoting girls' creative expression and self-esteem through music.

The event is scheduled to be held at the Conaway Center in the 1104 S. Wabash Ave. Building and will feature student bands and performances from some of the organization's members in addition to Girls Rock! The event is the first of its kind for SPB, according to Elana Schmidt, the board's director of communications and sophomore business and entrepreneurship major.

When SPB was planning events during the Fall 2016 Semester, the organization realized the group

had never done a fundraiser event for a community organization, Schmidt said.

"We were thinking about events we wanted to put on and we thought, 'We hold all of these events, but we really don't give back that much,'" Schmidt said. "[Girls Rock!] does really great work for young girls and any who identify as a women. We want to make people aware that this organization does exist."

Schmidt said the event will have free admission, but there will be charges for certain activities, including t-shirt making and caricature drawings. All funds raised will support the organization's summer camping program, according to Girls Rock! Operations Manager Kit Curl.

The organization's main program is a weeklong summer camp that gives those who identify

as female and are between the ages of 8 and 16 the opportunity to learn a new instrument and form their own bands, Curl said, adding that all campers will have the chance to write original songs to perform at a public venue.

Two Columbia student bands, Native Woods and Forever Kyra, will be performing at the event, along with Girls Rock! alumna Nateleine Aguilar, Girls Rock! band Won't Stay Dead and two other Columbia student bands recently formed at another SPB event: Pink Funk and Brave Colors.

Curl said she is looking forward to seeing the performances and is glad that SPB reached out to them for this event.

"I'm always looking forward to seeing our [organization's] alumni play, but I'm definitely interested in the groups at Columbia and getting people interested in volunteering with us," Curl said.

Junior business and entrepreneurship major and Brave Colors



Chicago's Girls Rock! organization works to empower young girls and creative expression through music, according to operations manager Kit Curl.

member Alex Kennedy said this concert will be his first time performing cover songs.

"We had to strip them down and remake them for our own sounds because nothing really fit us," Kennedy said. "You'll see an interesting, well-balanced sound. We've worked hard at making ourselves sound as good as possible and it's a challenge, but we've done good."

Schmidt said students can expect to see more SPB events supporting community organizations in the future.

"I would be more interested in finding more organizations kind of like this, maybe not so well-known to the Columbia community, to build awareness and help them," Schmidt said.

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Senate to vote on workload group's document

» **LAUREN KOSTIUK**
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER

FACULTY SENATE WILL vote on the Workload Workgroup's latest research document before final approval, according to a decision at its March 10 meeting.

The senate also welcomed the college's first ombudsperson and the new senior vice president of Business Affairs and CFO to discuss their roles at the college.

The Workload Workgroup, which was created last year to address concerns about uneven full-time faculty workload, created a document that would provide better language to the college policies.

Co-chairman of the committee Scott Hall, senior lecturer in the Music Department, said the committee is hoping to deliver and approve the document at the Senate's Statement of Policy

Committee's April 4 meeting. He said the committee will also hold an open forum on March 28 to solicit collegewide feedback.

Keith Kostecka, an associate professor in the Science and Mathematics Department, made a motion, which was approved by the Senate, that the document should come to the full Senate for a vote before going to the statement of policy committee.

"I am very concerned for everyone around this table that we have an opportunity to discuss this [document]," Kostecka said. "We need to have input and discuss it here—not at an open forum, not a statement of policy committee and not at the board of trustees."

Sarah Odishoo, an associate professor in the English Department, agreed with Kostecka that the Senate needs to review the document before it is sent forward.

"If we don't do that, we are at risk," Odishoo said. "We are supposed to be the guides of the school. We have to approve it, read it and vote on it."

The open forum would provide efficient feedback to make changes to the document before it's brought to the statement of policy committee, said Angela Malcomson, a lecturer in the American Sign Language-English Interpretation Department, said

"They are just documents," Malcomson said. "We are going to bring them to the entire faculty. They are going to get a look at them. We will have an open forum; if there are objections to [the documents], then the workload committee will know it."

After the motion was approved, Senate President and Associate Professor in the Photography Department Gregory Foster-Rice said he applauded the group for its transparent process. Foster-Rice said the Senate will hold an ad hoc meeting March 31 to vote on the workload document.

Later in the meeting, the college's new Academic Ombudsperson Connie Meyers discussed her goals and services. Meyers said she focuses on four principles:

confidentiality, informality, impartiality and independence. These allow her to have full control and objectivity over faculty issues on an everyday basis.

"I am not an advocate for faculty. I am not an advocate for any group," Meyers said. "I sit in the middle and I have no horse in anybody's race."

Senior Vice President of Business Affairs and CFO Jerry Tarrer told the Senate about his 90-day plan to evaluate the college's business structure.

Tarrer said he wants to identify the stakeholders at the college and engage with them, like the Faculty Senate and his own team, and he hopes to get a better understanding of Columbia's business strategy. He is also assessing his own team by evaluating their effectiveness and their resources.

Tarrer said he wants to meet with the Senate more often.

"If there is a particular topic you want me to cover, I am more than willing to come," Tarrer said.

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» **G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE**



An approved motion made during the Faculty Senate's March 10 meeting will have the Senate vote on the Workload Workgroup's new document before approval.

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» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

Sophomore business and entrepreneurship major Noorani Pirani and sophomore theatre major Savy Stevenson, who comprise hip-hop/rap group “N.S.P.,” performed a 90-second set March 9 at Biggest Mouth Auditions. Performers auditioned for the opportunity to perform at The Metro, 3730 N Clark St., and a chance to open for the Manifest headliner on May 12.

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(Left) Jake Dagit, junior business and entrepreneurship major, served as host of the ball festivities dressed as college founder Mary Blood. Columbia celebrated the annual Blood Ball at 1104 S. Wabash Ave. on March 9.

(Right) David Jackson, freshman radio major dances to Michael Jackson, grabbing the attention of attendees.



BLOOD BALL, FROM FRONT

Sporting a flattering dress and high heels, Mary Blood—played in drag by SPB President Jake Dagit—greeted people as they entered the ball, participated in photo-ops with attendees and hosted the dance.

According to the planning committee's Faculty Adviser David Keys, Mary Blood is typically played by someone in drag because it exemplifies the inclusive nature of the dance, regardless of participants' gender identities or expressions. Keys said the embrace culture of the event is something organizers try to celebrate every year.

Winners of the dance's king and queen titles were sophomore radio major Jocelyn Hudson as queen and sophomore cinema art and science major Kevin Dean as king. The titles given to two women

follow the Blood Ball's tradition of gender inclusivity.

"I love the gender inclusivity of the titles, so it was really nice being able to be in that setting," Dean said.

Kaela Ritter, senior business and entrepreneurship major and SGA president awarded the sashes, crowns and a small gift bag to this year's winners. Ritter said she enjoyed awarding the titles to the two, adding that they both seemed excited to receive the crowns.

"I'm glad I took this chance this year," Hudson said after being crowned. "There's been nothing but opportunities for me this year. I took a jump, and I'm glad."

As part of the honor in winning the title, Hudson and Dean will be featured in Columbia's Manifest parade May 13.

As per tradition, ballots were also distributed to attendees to vote for "best dressed," "best in dress" and "best in slacks." Freshman theatre major Sara Abirached was awarded "best in dress," junior cinema art and science major Parker Bradford won "best in slacks," and freshman fashion studies major Brock Langel received the "best dressed" award. Abirached wore a two-piece dress with a sequined top; Bradford sported a blue blazer, red tie and khakis; Langel was dressed in a black and red velvet suit with dangling earrings, a feathered bowtie and platform boots.

Throughout the night, students also had opportunities to participate in themed events including flamingo croquet and mad hatter speed-friending, in which students swap seats and talk to whomever

they landed next to, using guided questions. The Renegades and Rated E! dance teams also performed throughout the evening.

Alyssa Runnels, Blood Ball planning committee president and senior American Sign Language-English interpretation major, and Keys both said the speed-friending event was added to the dance to give attendees a chance to meet people.

"By students actually attending the event, they are supporting the student leaders who have put in all the planning and the effort and the time to create such a wonderful Blood Ball," Keys said. "It promotes community engagement and hopefully will foster new or stronger relationships between students by attending the dance."

Signey Engstrand, junior music major, attended the ball dressed as Alice from "Alice in Wonderland"

and said she wanted to attend because she had not been to a dance since high school. She added that getting groups of people at Columbia together can be difficult because of the scattered arrangement of the campus buildings.

"As a junior, I still sometimes feel like I don't have a campus, but it is starting to feel way better than it did freshman year," Engstrand said.

Runnels said she was excited to organize the dance because it could help attendees create relationships they may not have had before.

"I hope people get to know each other a little better so people can gain that community sense at Columbia, since it's a little harder with our campus being the way it is to feel like you're part of the community," Runnels said.

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Senior design major, Brian Collins, also known as DJ Kid Yellow, played for students at Blood Ball at 1104 S. Wabash Ave. on March 9.



Brock Langel, winner of Best Dressed Overall; Blood Ball host Jake Dagit; Parker Bradford, winner of Best Dressed in Slacks; and Sara Abirached, winner of Best Dressed in a Dress, posed together for the crowd.



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Autism Eats, an organization that provides a safe space for families with autistic children to eat in public without judgment, is having its first Chicago dinner on March 18 at the Fireside Inn, 5739 N. Ravenswood Ave.



» Photos Courtesy LENARD ZOHN

Chicago group makes sure 'Autism Eats'

» **KENDRAH VILLIESSE**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

SHANNON DUNWORTH KNEW she could not be the only one who noticed stares from patrons in restaurants as her stepson, who has autism, roamed around and impatiently waited for his food. Knowing that others felt unwelcome and disrespected when taking autistic family members out for dinner, the Chicagoan wondered what she could do.

"You can feel other people staring at you where you feel judged," Dunworth said. "It can create a little bit of stress where you think you are bothering other people. It is not that fun to go out because of that."

When her husband brought home an article about a Massachusetts-based program called Autism Eats in that arranges dinners for families with autistic children, Dunworth decided to reach out to the founder to establish a Chicago chapter.

Founded in December 2016, Autism Eats Chicago is scheduled to hold its first dinner March 18 at the Fireside Inn, 5739

N. Ravenswood Ave. Families of autistic kids are invited to come, relax and enjoy a buffet-style meal that is paid for in advance to ensure a relaxing night. Depending on attendance, the organization will either have the whole restaurant or a large portion to themselves.

Lenard Zohn, co-founder of the first Autism Eats chapter in Andover, Massachusetts in 2015, said he and his wife were interested in creating a welcoming, judgment-free space. Arranging the optimal environment includes adjusting

"The fact that we have customized our own situation for comfort [will make] people think twice when they see a child that may be struggling a bit."

— **SHANNON DUNWORTH**

the lighting and the music to accommodate those with sensory difficulties and planned fun activities for the family, he said.

The organization is now active in 10 states and is even receiving inquiries for international chapters, according to Zohn.

"Everybody in our room is connected to autism in some way," Zohn said. "Whether it is an individual [or] an autism family, they are caregivers, and teachers. It ensures that it is judgment-free and allows people to talk and behave in a way that is very comfortable."

Zohn said he created the nonprofit after feeling the discomfort of other restaurant patrons because of his son's actions.

"Restaurant's don't typically know how to handle a table," Zohn said. "You sometimes feel that other diners are looking over at you

and you are disturbing their meal. It just becomes a pretty uncomfortable situation."

Alan Dunn, founder of the site Autism Awareness, a virtual community of parents who face the same challenges he does with his autistic son, said community programs that provide assistance to families are incredibly helpful for parents and the child.

"A lot of families are lacking the social aspect of relationships with other parents," Dunn said. "A lot of children after school hours don't have the same social network as typical kids do. A child with special needs doesn't go to the park and play with ten other kids."

In addition to providing families with stress-free meals, Dunworth said these events promote autism awareness.

"It may make people more conscious of what they are doing," Dunworth said. "The fact that we have customized our own situation for comfort [will make] people think twice when they see a child that may be struggling a bit."

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» ZOË EITEL
MANAGING EDITORThat's a
wrap

Faster, more furious, less substance

The eighth installment in the massive "Fast and Furious" film franchise is set to come out April 14, and "The Fate of the Furious" new trailer—released March 9—reveals more plot points that don't make sense and adds to my reluctance to see the movie.

Let's reflect on some of the reasons the series should have ended in 2015 with "Furious 7."

Bad characterization

In "The Fate of the Furious," Vin Diesel's character Dominic Toretto—who has been preaching "I don't have friends, I got family" for seven movies straight—apparently has left that all behind and betrayed his "family," often leaving them in the vicinity of explosions and cars falling from buildings.

The reason Toretto has flipped to the other side and joined Cipher, the villain played by Charlize Theron, has to be a very good one, otherwise the filmmakers are going to have some angry and disappointed fans on their hands.

Cultural appropriation

In an obvious move to try to make her look evil, Cipher sports a head of blonde locs. While she's from South Africa, Theron is of European descent. It's not clear whether the style is a wig or Theron's real hair, but regardless, this is also a prime example of appropriating and demonizing black culture. Not to mention, it looks terrible.

Jason Statham

Statham played the antagonist in "Furious 7" who killed a member of the crew as revenge for his brother's take-down and subsequent coma in the sixth film. The crew was able to outwit and capture Statham after he had almost killed all of them at least a few times. Now, in the eighth movie, he's back as part of the team.

It's obviously a reluctant partnership, but having the team work with Statham is unrealistic, even if it is necessary to stop Toretto.

More cars, tanks and submarines

It's not surprising to have a substantial number of cars in a franchise that



started with basic drag racing and graduated to driving tank-like cars out of a plane onto a small mountain road. However, Cipher's ability to control all the cars on the street in New York with her A+ hacking skills is probably the most unrealistic thing in the series.

Ludacris' character Tej has wanted a tank since the crew faced one in the sixth movie, and in this one, his dream is finally fulfilled. That isn't a problem. The problem is the submarine the team is battling while racing over the ice. The sub even shoots a torpedo at the vehicle The Rock's Agent Hobbs is in, and he hangs out of the car to kick it away into a bad guy's car.

Paul Walker

It's no secret that Walker was the heart of this series as the main character Brian O'Conner—a police officer-turned-street racer-turned-FBI agent-turned-international fugitive-turned-pardoned family man. After his death in 2013, "Furious 7" had to be finished using CGI images in his scenes. The filmmakers made the right move by not including CGI Walker in this film, but making it without him was a mistake.

"Furious 7" ended with a beautiful shot of Toretto and Walker driving next to each other down a winding road before veering off on different paths. It is narrated by Toretto, who is talking about his relationship with O'Conner and how much he means to him, which also works as a goodbye to Walker from Diesel. That would have been a perfect way to end the whole series, and any other ending is not nearly as authentic and sincere.

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Metalcore band Stray From the Path performed March 8 at Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St.

» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

featured artist

» **ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

CHRISTOPHER WAYNE WAS eating fish tacos at a restaurant in Worcester, Massachusetts when a group of older women stopped to give him and Mike Tyler a slice of their birthday cake. The duo from Brisbane, Australia, laughed and thanked them.

"I think one of them likes me," Wayne said through mouthfuls of cake. "It's the Aussie accent, mate."

This is not an unusual occurrence by their standards. But the Aussies are more used to getting bare than getting hit on for their accents—although that happens too, Wayne adds. Four years ago, Wayne and Tyler changed the world of magic with a naked twist that has since spread all over the U.S., Australia, the U.K. and New Zealand. The show is touring the U.S. through April 6.

Wayne and Tyler star in their show "Naked Magicians" playing at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut Ave., March 14–19. The

Chronicle caught up with Wayne to learn more about the show.

THE CHRONICLE: How did you come up with the show?

CHRISTOPHER WAYNE: We were both professional magicians, and we had this idea that we knew was either going to be the best or worst idea ever. We are so glad we did because it has changed our lives. We both loved magic but hated every stereotype about magic. We thought, "How do we strip away those stereotypes?" Literally strip away the stereotype—get rid of the top hat, cape, [and] bunny.

Who is your typical audience?

If you stand on stage, in between Mike and I naked, you are going to see 80 percent women of all ages and 15 percent gay guys. The couples in the last five percent [are] men dragged out by their girlfriends and wives and others [who] thought it would be a really fun date night. It doesn't matter who you are, what your background

is; everyone at some point loves magic, and everyone has that naughty, cheeky side.

How are you so comfortable being naked on stage?

At first, it was the scariest thing in the world because we were both magicians, not strippers. We literally took on what was the biggest fear for both of us. It was our first show and there were about 200 people, but they were people we knew. When our pants came down, the audience erupted and everyone was happy. Now, I almost feel invincible after that. If you can stand naked in front of a room full of people, what's left? Bungee jumping? Like, bloody hell. Now for both of us, if we are onstage in front of 200, or 2,000 people, there is no better part than when we are standing there [wearing] nothing but a smile on our faces.

How did you adapt your magic tricks to the show?

We had to reinvent our magic. Thankfully we had the best

SEE NAKED, PAGE 22

» Courtesy NAKED MAGICIANS



Magic, bodies, Aussies: Time to strip for ChicAHgo

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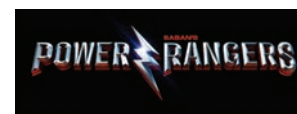
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Do-re-MeMa: program mixes music, activism to teach history

» **BLAIR PADDOCK**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

INSTEAD OF CRACKING open textbooks for their next history lesson, students are writing original melodies and lyrics to tackle the past.

The Motivate & Encourage Music Appreciation program has been teaching children about everything from the Vietnam War to the Civil Rights Movement through music for the past five years at Stone Academy in West Rogers Park. In February, the program expanded to the South Side at Langford Community Academy.

The program was created to inspire and teach students social studies through music and performance, according to MeMa Founder Jeanne Warsaw-Gazga.

"Most kids are bored to death [with social studies],"

Warsaw-Gazga said. "I have seen students that are on the spectrum [of learning disabilities] come alive [in the program]. Students that are typically bored and never pay attention start to pay attention."

The program typically lasts eight weeks, with a showcase at the end at which eighth and ninth grade students present projects on topics they choose. These projects can include anything from musical and spoken word performances to interviews and films. The program focuses on the political movements of the '60s and '70s, but they are intertwined with political issues of today, Warsaw-Gazga said.

"Growing up in the mid-to-late '60s, I was lucky enough to hear a lot of the social protests, rock music, and then in the '70s, a lot of the socio-political music a lot

of the R&B artists were making," Warsaw-Gazga said. "I loved that this music was a way to bring people together and to work for a better cause."

Warsaw-Gazga got the idea from 25 years of experience working in the music industry. She said she

wanted to make music with kids and share the different emotions music brings up. Because she was particularly interested in the Vietnam War and the music that came out of that era, the idea seamlessly fit into a social studies class setting, she added.

Edward Patock, a teacher at Stone Academy, said Warsaw-Gazga brings in artists to teach students about subjects they are passionate about. The students not only learn information, but

also gain experience and find out they can excel in areas such as songwriting or drawing, he added.

"This is something that [we] at [Chicago Public Schools], with our vast funding sources, cannot even hope to match," Patock said.

Lisa Giddens-White, whose daughter participated in the program last May, praised the program for tapping into the intersection of music and history and making it accessible for kids. One project she recalled was a student interviewing family friends that were older, Vietnamese immigrants on their experiences seeing the Vietnam War unfold.

"It was important to the student and they were able to interview and [research] on the Vietnam War," Giddens-White said.

Warsaw-Gazga said one of her teaching methods is to use video clips on topics such as income inequality, noting better results for students who learn visually. The video allows them to compare and analyze history over time.

» Courtesy JEANNE WARSAW-GAZGA



The Motivate & Encourage Music Appreciation program at Stone Academy has now expanded to Langford Community Academy on the South Side.

SEE MEMA, PAGE 22

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The new future of The Neo-Futurists

» KENDRAH VILLIESSE
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

AFTER NEARLY 30 years on the local theater scene, the Neo-Futurists theater ensemble is taking its winning formula of 30 plays in 60 minutes in a different direction.

The new format, “The Infinite Wrench,” which debuted March 3, replaces “Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind,” the name the company gave to its long-running performance of a series of two-minute plays first offered in 1988.

Like the previous show, the new one is scripted by the ensemble members and changes weekly, but it has a more flexible structure and now incorporates audience participation, according to Lily Mooney,

an ensemble member since 2013 and the education coordinator.

Artistic director and performer Kurt Chiang said the reason for the new direction of the group was to increase audience involvement and allow the ensemble to use the audience and props more.

In addition, the license for the previous show expired and was not renewable, Mooney said. Renaming the show was necessary but also conveys the plays’ participatory dynamic, she said.

Incorporating audience participation into a rapid-fire succession of plays would seem to be a formidable task, but the troupe has found a way to make it work. According to Chiang, the audience always determines the order of the plays, often by competing with one

another in various ways to decide which plays are performed when throughout the show.

“The reason we wanted to do that was because we could,” Chiang said. “We wanted to experiment further with the way that we were doing our work that we’ve been doing almost exactly the same in a way since 1988 and it was time to make anew.”

In addition to the new show, the Neo-Futurists are also en route to reach their 10,000th play, a big milestone in the Neo-Futurists’ 28-year history. Each mini-play is different every time it is performed, and the plays are based on the writers’ experiences and observations. The group performs

The Neo-Futurists change their long-running show “Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind” to “The Infinite Wrench” after 28 years at The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.

at The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.

“In my time here, I have seen the moment when the 7,000th play was picked and the 8,000th play was picked and the 9,000th play. It is a big milestone,” Chiang said. “It is a good testament to the entire ensemble that has performed and written for our company since

1988. It is a big round number, and we get to land ourselves into the five-digit spectrum now.”

The name of the new collection of shows was inspired by British artist Mina Loy’s 1914 book “Feminist Manifesto,” an allusion to the Italian Futurists for whom the ensemble is named, according to Chiang.

SEE FUTURISTS, PAGE 22





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Cupcake competition challenges Chicago youth

» **BLAIR PADDOCK**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

CUPCAKES COULD HELP create the next batch of young employees in Chicago thanks to a Food Network-like competition featuring a full-ride scholarship prize.

Until March 31, high school students from any of the 50 Chicago wards are eligible to enter the Mayor's Cup, a pastry competition designed to inspire and create opportunities for the youth of Chicago. First place grants the student a full scholarship to the French Pastry School.

The school and Mayor Rahm Emanuel created the program to inspire students and create employment opportunities for Chicago's youth, said Cathi Volante, director of marketing at the French Pastry School.

"[The program is] a creative way to give back to the youth of Chicago and inspire young people to give back [as well]," Volante said.

Students ages 14–19 will submit cupcake recipes and statements about what inspires them to bake to the French Pastry School's

website. Recipes and statements will be judged on creativity and originality, and 12 finalists will come to the school for mentoring and assistance with perfecting their recipes. Chefs will then select a winner who will be awarded the scholarship.

"The finalists that get to come here are

going to be working next to world-renowned chefs," Volante said. "That's a wonderful opportunity to be able to see some of the creativity and tricks of the trade."

The school has been mentoring young aspiring chefs since 1995, so the idea of creating a scholarship competition came naturally, said Sébastien Canonne, co-owner of the French Pastry School.

"Trade school is extremely important as any academy studies," Canonne said. "We want to reinforce the need to go to school and learn the trade the right way and the proper vocational training."

This program exposes the youth to opportunities they did not previously have access to, which translates to a more success in employment, said David Douglas, creator of Yolobe, a smartphone app released June 2016 for youth looking for jobs or internships.

According to a 2014 report conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, only 12.9 percent of black 16–19-year-olds were employed in the city. Douglas said

the cause is a lack of social capital and connection to employers and job openings.

"More opportunity equals more experience, which then translates to a respectability by other employers," Douglas said.

A misconception about young people is that they lack understanding of the hiring process, he said. To combat this, small-to-midsize businesses need to offer internships and further engage young people, he noted.

"There [needs to be] an ease of access for dissemination about the availability of opportunities and a much easier way for people to connect with others," Douglas said.

While the program will fuel a passion for pastries, it also will provide a source of education to benefit kids as they search for employment, Volante said.

"With any education, it gives you a leg up in the community," Volante said. "The better educated you are, the better opportunities you have."

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» **KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE**



The French Pastry School worked with the Mayor's office to create the Mayor's Cup pastry competition, in which Chicago high schoolers will compete for a full-ride scholarship to the school.

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Ian Schneller



CRAFTSMEN OF SOUND

Story and photos by Kevin Tiongson
Design by James Tsitiridis

There's a fascination among guitarists, and musicians in general, with handmade equipment. The common, mass-produced products don't have the same soul, character or quality, which is the reason boutique manufacturers and guitar makers called luthiers are able to thrive.

Bruce Roper and Ian Schneller are two Chicago-based luthiers and music equipment makers. Roper repairs and builds guitars, performs as part of the folk trio "Sons Of The Never Wrong" and teaches the Chicago Luthiers Workshop in Roscoe Village. Schneller is a high-end guitar maker, building amplifiers and speakers under his brand "Specimen Products" and teaching a class of his own called the "Chicago School of Guitar Making" in his workshop in Humboldt Park. The speakers that Schneller builds are unique, called Horn Speakers, use technology that dates back to original speaker designs and are much more efficient because they need less input.

Both Schneller and Roper make their guitars in-house, using sustainable woods and long-lasting hardware. They create everything themselves, putting the body together, shaving the

neck down into the headstock and installing hardware, and they encourage their students to practice these same methods.

Schneller marries his experience and craft of sculpting through his trademark Horn Speakers and has used them in a museum exhibition with musician Andrew Bird, called "Sonic Arboretum." The first show was at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2010. In the installation, Bird used Schneller's horn speakers and amps to create "Sound Sculptures."

Roper makes some instruments for himself and a few commissioned by clients. He also does repairs for the Old Town School of Folk Music in addition to his workshop classes.

Schneller and Roper are only a few of the guitar luthiers in Chicago. It is a community that's slowly growing as more people see the value of having well-made instruments.

As the quality of mass-produced products continues to decline, there is a growing demand for these soulful instruments sought by generations of players.

ktiongson@chroniclemail.com



Bruce Roper



4



7



5



6

1. Ian Schneller owns and operates the guitar, amplifier and speaker producer Specimen Products in Humboldt Park, which celebrated its 30th year of production in 2016.
2. Schneller builds his amplifiers for use both with Hi-Fi stereos and guitar amps.
3. Schneller shows spare guitar necks lying around the Specimen Products Workshop.
4. Bruce Roper reveals how a truss rod works inside the neck, stabilizing the guitar.
5. The Chicago Luthiers Workshop near Roscoe Village is where Roper teaches the craft of guitar making.
6. Roper explains how the neck is joined to the body of an acoustic guitar.
7. In his home, Roper plays one of his personal, crafted guitars.

NAKED, FROM PAGE 13

misdirection in the world: our naked bodies. We used to do a trick with someone's mobile phone in our regular show, and now we theme it around sexting. We do an audience prediction about a porn film. Instead of throwing a beach ball, we have a five-foot inflatable c--k that gets thrown into the crowd for two minutes.

It was the hardest and easiest thing ever because no one had ever done it, so we were literally looking at a blank sheet of paper, like, "What are we going to draw?"

Have either of your parents come to the show?

All of our parents have come and they actually really love it because the show—at its core—is just a really funny, naughty magic show. It's weird when our moms are watching and women are talking about who they want to bang, but aside from that, our parents are really proud. We are one of the biggest magic shows to ever come out of our country. All [Tyler] and

I have wanted is to do magic tricks and make people laugh, and that is [how] our parents raised us. Now we get to do it on a scale that none of us would have imagined.

Has anything gone wrong or been embarrassing onstage?

Not during a show, but during a photo shoot with the biggest newspaper in Australia [in the] entertainment section. [Tyler] had to throw flash paper [a highly flammable compound used by magicians of nitric acid and cellulose into the air but because of the humidity in the room—normally it burns straight away—it burned at half the rate and it landed on the tip of my penis. My d--k got burned and we had to stop for a minute. We do it one more time—and I could not have made this up—the exact same thing happened and literally my job and my hobby almost went up in flames in an instant. That's a true story. If you are wondering, everything is fine now, wink, wink.

aparrella@chroniclemail.com

MEMA, FROM PAGE 15

"It's such a difference when you are visually looking at videos giving you similar information from a textbook," Warsaw-Gazga said. "Today's students are visual. They are always on a computer or phone."

Teaching students with music promotes literacy and empathy, said Nathan Bakkum, associate professor in the Music Department who teaches music history. The earlier kids are engaged musically, the earlier they think creatively.

"Music is a way of engaging with the world," Bakkum said. "There are things you can do and say in music that you can't do and say in any other way."

The program inspires kids to think creatively while teaching them how to conduct research, Giddens-White said.

"It's about what's important to these kids and putting it out [creatively] to reflect their world," Giddens-White said. "[Kids] connect with history and themselves."

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FUTURISTS, FROM PAGE 17

"[Loy] has a line in the Manifesto that says, 'Are you prepared for the wrench?'" Chiang said. "[It's] a reference to a violent change to the way politics were going according to the manifesto."

The Neo-Futurists are also attempting to change the performance experience by having social and political discussions while performing, according to Chiang. "We have a privileged position where we can speak and write toward the present day through theater," Chiang said.

The group has an access initiative called Neo-Access that makes the theater available to different audiences, Mooney said.

"A big part of our work is that you don't need a certain kind of experience or training to be yourself onstage or tell true stories," Mooney said. "We don't want there to be barriers to people who want to do this work."

As it reaches the 10,000 mini-plays this year, the Neo-Futurists' approaches performances by

"staying within reality while still being theatrically vibrant and versatile," said Bilal Dardai, a member from 2004–2008.

"The important thing was [writing] from a place of personal honesty," Dardai said. "Any story we told about ourselves or about things we saw in the news had to be 100 percent true. We were not going to make anything up, and we weren't going to pretend that we were anyone else."

kvilliesse@chroniclemail.com



» Courtesy THE NEO-FUTURISTS

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» **ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

It is 10 a.m. in the Melbourne Airport, Australia, and musicians are getting ready to fly to Austin, Texas, for South by Southwest, the annual music festival that also showcases film, music, comedy, panel discussions and interactivity.

“This plane is going to be like a tour bus,” said Alex Lahey, one of the musicians on board, as she greeted her fellow artists.

Lahey—whose sound can be categorized as emotionally driven, punchy guitar pop—is heading to SXSW for the first time to start her U.S. tour for her 2016 EP *B-Grade University*. Her single “You Don’t Think You Like People Like Me” was called the Best New Track from Pitchfork, and Lahey closed out the year by being the most played artist on Triple J Unearthed, an Australian music site. The 24-year-old was also voted Best Female Artist at the Age Music Awards.

With more than 83,000 monthly Spotify listeners, Lahey is ready to play for her American fans and will be at Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave., March 20.

The Chronicle spoke to Lahey about her millennial angst songs, an upcoming debut album and experiences touring with Tegan and Sara.

Alex Lahey ready to hit US with SXSW debut

THE CHRONICLE: Your song “Wes Anderson” is about a relationship very relatable to millennials. Does the person know you wrote it about them?

ALEXLAHEY: Yeah, for sure. It was about a relationship I was in at the time and the little things [about it]. I don’t know if that is because I was bored in the relationship, but I was very in love at the time and it [was] a very slow-paced relationship, so I wrote a song about it and the little things.

Do you still feel the same emotion while performing these songs?

It is interesting how these songs have taken on a life of their own and have found their own journey, whether by people listening in Melbourne, the U.K. or in Chicago. There is like a re-burst everytime someone discovers them. For me, I just came off this tour in the U.K., and performing them over there was like performing them for the first time again. They take on this different meaning every time I play them, depending on where I play them. I said this to my band, “I can’t believe I’m not sick of them yet.” We have done so many shows, and that song has sort of been milling about for three years now since I wrote it, and I am still not sick of it. I am sure I will be, but for now I am just really happy to be sharing new music.



» Courtesy PITCH PERFECT PR

Alex Lahey, an indie pop-rock musician from Australia who opened for Tegan and Sara, is starting her own tour in the U.S., beginning with SXSW in Austin, Texas March 16–17.

When is your first full-length album due?

I am about 50 percent of the way through my debut album. It’s gonna be 10 tracks and it should be out later this year. I’ve never been involved in making an album, so it is a

big life moment. I am very excited to have a 12-inch [record] with my name on it.

What did you learn from touring and working with Tegan and Sara?

The thing Tegan and Sara are so amazing at is they are so socially conscious. One thing I have taken from them is that it doesn’t matter how big you think you are or how much of a capacity to make a difference you have. Every little thing counts toward making the world a better place and making people feel more accepted and included. It doesn’t take much to make someone feel included and safe in a space that maybe they are not normally.

[Tegan and Sara] do a lot of stuff with the LGBT community, so they are really into having gender-neutral bathrooms and that sort of thing. It is such a small thing. You just call and say, “Can I do this?” and the venue generally says yeah. And then it probably has made a real difference to someone experiencing the show and a real change to their lives.

They are really wonderful. They have been in the game for so long that they share so many stories and you have these bizarre conversations with them like, “Oh yeah, we were just talking to Katy Perry about feminism the other day.” They definitely are role models.

aparrella@chroniclemail.com

Guide me to spring break

Staff *Playlist*
open.spotify.com/user/thechronicle

» BLAIR PADDOCK ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER	» LAUREN KOSTIUK DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER	» NOAH KELLY MARKETING CONSULTANT	» JAMES TSITIRIDIS GRAPHIC DESIGNER
“The Purple Bottle” Animal Collective	“Freedom Interlude” Noname	“Tidal Waves” Summer Salt	“Pocketful of Sunshine” Natasha Bedingfield
“I Can Change” LSD Sound System	“LSD” feat. Chance the Rapper Jamila Woods	“Born Too Late” Dent May	“Sitting, Waiting, Wishing” Jack Johnson
“Roommate” Lizzy Mercier Descloux	“Special” D.R.A.M.	“Hopeless” Khalid	“Bubbly” Colbie Callait
“Damn That Valley” U.S. Girls	“My Cherie Amour” Stevie Wonder	“Dopamine Lit” Lupe Fiasco	“The Sweet Escape” Gwen Stefani
“Paradise Girls” Deerhoof	“Walk On By” Thundercat	“Sweet Leaf” The Walters	“SexyBack” Justin Timberlake

CHECK *me* OUTWHAT ARE YOU WEARING
DURING SPRING BREAK?

» PHOTOS BY KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE



Ayesha Abouelazm
graduate student cinema art
and science major

"Definitely a headband."



Louis Morel l'Horset
sophomore audio arts and acoustics major

*"This good old trench coat, and I always wear
the blazer under it."*



Paige Hanson
sophomore business and
entrepreneurship major

*"I'll probably be wearing leg-
gings most days honestly; may-
be a light jacket. I usually have a
leather jacket I like to wear."*



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RECIPE



QUICK AND EASY CHICKEN AVOCADO WRAPS

» G-JUN YAM AND GABRIEL DE LA MORA/CHRONICLE

» ARIANA PORTALATIN
CAMPUS EDITOR

Wraps are very convenient when you need a quick, low-maintenance meal. The best part about them is that you can make them with just about anything to satisfy your tastes. These wraps have just a few ingredients and require little time and effort, which makes them the perfect meal.

aportalatin@chroniclemail.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- ½ cup shredded cheese blend
- 1 avocado, diced
- 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped
- 4 large tortillas
- 1 tablespoon oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix the shredded chicken, cheese, cilantro and diced avocados.
2. Lay tortilla on a flat surface. Add ¼ of the mixture and form a roll. Repeat the process for all four tortillas.
3. Pour 1 tablespoon of oil into heated pan or griddle. Place all four rolled tortillas on the pan and cook for 2 minutes on medium-high heat. Flip onto the other side and cook for another 2 minutes or until the wraps are golden in color. Serve warm.

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top

our staff's
top 5 picks:

video & blog reviews



Video: “Stormzy - ‘Big For Your Boots’”

Stormzy is a London-based rapper who is leading the Grime movement—the U.K.’s answer to a question that trap music never asked. It’s gritty, it’s real, and it’s full of British slang that is making the genre’s transition to America difficult. That said, Stormzy has recently been seen hanging with pioneer of rap music, Ice Cube—who knows where that will lead?



Blog: “Workout Diagrams”

It’s never too late to start on that New Years fitness resolution. As the weather gets warmer, the motivation to workout may increase. This blog provides photos of workouts you can do at home or at the gym. There are exercises for specific body parts such as abs or legs and even cardio circuits. Get in shape and stay motivated with this convenient blog.

BEST FOODIE VACATIONS

» **G-JUN YAM**
SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Taipei, Taiwan:

The night market’s street food is incredible, unlike any other place. The vibrant city itself is part of a beautiful natural landscape and offers a lot, considering the country’s small size. If you’re vegan—move to Taiwan!

Beijing, China:

Everyone wears surgical masks here because of China’s air pollution, but you’ll take yours off to follow the aroma of Peking Duck. You can also see the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and much more.

Bali, Indonesia:

The island is one of many located in this Southeast Asian country. If you go, don’t stay within a luxury resort. Instead, explore and be amazed by the local art and craftsmanship. Don’t forget to try the unique local food.

Bangkok, Thailand:

If you have not yet tried the delicious soup Tom Yam, you are missing out. The complicated flavors are sweet, sour, spicy and salty all in one. The famous Thai dish is the perfect accompaniment to a day viewing beautiful Buddhist temple architecture.

Penang, Malaysia:

There’s nothing like returning to your hometown—if only to eat familiar food. Malaysia is the food heaven of the world. A mixture of traditional Chinese, Malay and Indian food, it is guaranteed to blow your mind and taste buds—all for a small cost.

REASONS PCs ARE BETTER THAN CONSOLES

» **WESLEY HEROLD**
SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

More power:

PC gaming offers access to much more computing power at your fingertips—especially if you build your own computer. Even the latest consoles barely compare to a low-end desktop because most desktops have a discreet graphics card to power all the visually demanding games.

Better selection of games:

While consoles have few proprietary games exclusively for them, there are many more that are PC-specific. With services such as Steam offering nearly 14,000 games, including many that are free-to-play or offered at extreme discounts, it is not easy to be bored.

Better control:

With a PC, you have access to a mouse and a keyboard, which is a far more precise input method than any controller. You can even plug in your Xbox or PlayStation controller into your computer if you want.

More cost-effective online play:

While everyone else still has to pay for internet access, PCs don’t require you to pay a fee to play your games online. While some PC titles have a monthly subscription, the majority allow you to play online for no additional cost.

Versatility:

A PC can do much more than play games of course. Owning one will be more useful in getting that paper done than owning an Xbox, unless you end up just watching Netflix and browsing Facebook.

TIPS TO TRANSITION TO WARM WEATHER

» **ESTHER BELL**
PHOTO EDITOR

Take time for yourself:

Warmer weather also means midterms, and eventually finals. Find time in your hectic schedule to reconnect with your inner you. Spend that time nurturing your psyche and re-energizing your passion.

Exercise:

Dust off your athletic shoes and hit the trails now that you can begin enjoying time outdoors. Whether it’s walking, running, biking, or skateboarding, you’ll feel great afterward.

Take up a new hobby:

Life is a timeline of personal growth, and the shift to warmer weather is the perfect time to acquire more knowledge of a topic you don’t know much about. This can be achieved in small ways, like reading a new book or attending lectures.

Spring cleaning:

Give your apartment the attention it has needed for the past month by wiping down surfaces and sweeping your floors. Re-organize your desk space and clean out any irrelevant papers lying around while filing away the important ones. A clean environment leads to a clear headspace.

Give back:

It doesn’t take much money or time to give back and enjoy doing so. Donate any winter clothing that remained unworn throughout the season or spend a weekend or two volunteering at food banks or animal shelters.



APP

ROLLERCOASTER TYCOON TOUCH APP



» **ETHAN STOCKING-ANDERSON**
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

If you're looking for a paint-by-numbers approach to building an amusement park—with gameplay staggered by crippling in-app purchases—this is your app. For a more faithful representation of the original games, Rollercoaster Tycoon Classic contains the first two installments of the series in their entirety. The mobile app, released March 5, is nostalgia-filled but not a steal at six bucks.



SCREEN

ANNE HATHAWAY'S UN SPEECH



» **LAUREN KOSTIUK**
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER

Oscar-winner Anne Hathaway spoke to the U.N. on International Women's Day, March 8, calling on countries to provide paid parental leave. Currently, the U.S. gives 12 weeks of unpaid leave to parents. Hathaway said, "Paid parental leave is not about taking days off work; it is about creating freedom to define roles." The speech was powerful and necessary, but now countries must act.



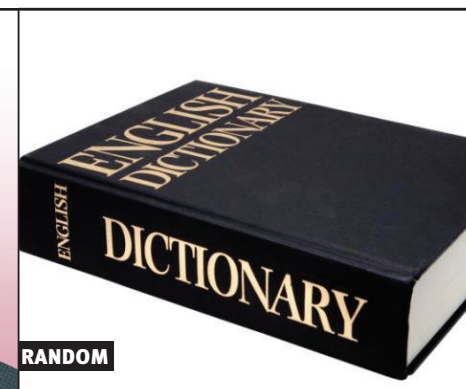
MUSIC

JUDAH & THE LION'S 'GOING TO MARS'



» **ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

The Nashville guitar band is "Going to Mars" with their new song, released Feb. 24, and I wouldn't mind joining them. The Christian-turned-secular band just ended its tour with Twenty One Pilots and is exploding onto the mainstream indie rock scene. The song has a wide variety of vocals and instruments that are well produced. Slow down the quick rapping verse a bit and this could become a new fave.



RANDOM

A DICTIONARY



» **ARABELLA BRECK**
MANAGING EDITOR

There is no better place to look when preparing for a speech to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and you are confused on the definitions of "immigrant" and "slave," or if you're sitting in the Oval Office trying to decide if it is "hear by," "hearby" or "hereby." You can even get a pocket dictionary or a dictionary app if you want to be a bit more inconspicuous.



TECH

THE NINTENDO SWITCH LAUNCH



» **JONATHAN SADOWSKI**
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

The Nintendo Switch, released March 3, is a new video game console that is considered to be a "hybrid." Being raised on the N64 and Gamecube, I expected more from the company. It is disheartening to see so many issues, bugs and glitches in the new unit, from flimsy controllers to the games constantly freezing. Not to mention it costs \$300! I certainly won't be buying a Switch any time soon.



SCREEN

'HELLA LATE SHOW' EPISODE 2



» **ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Indiana University's Student Television show "Hella Late Show" aired Episode 2 March 7. It starts off with funny commentary about Trump, of course. The show featured Indiana rapper Poindexter who egotistically talked about himself. While some of jokes are too staged and stiff, it's a productive way to showcase student involvement in today's late night culture scene that still doesn't have many funny diverse hosts, apart from Trevor Noah.



MUSIC

KHALID'S AMERICAN TEEN



» **ESTHER BELL**
PHOTO EDITOR

At 19 years old, Khalid hit no. 1 on Apple's R&B/Soul Top Music Chart on March 3, the same day he released *American Teen*. The album is symbolic of the verse on the first song that says, "Living the good life of the good vibes." The music represents the trials of adventure, love, and being young and naive. Khalid deserves to be the center of attention in the hip-hop industry as one of its newest break-out artists.



RANDOM

MATTHEW GRAY GUBLER'S FIREPLACE



» **ZOË EITEL**
MANAGING EDITOR

In 2015, "Criminal Minds" actor Matthew Gray Gubler gave a tour of his home, which is a haunted treehouse. Inside the treehouse, Gubler has a fireplace that he built himself because he wanted it to look as though a drunk gnome had built it, and the masons he hired were too skilled. The fireplace also has a secret compartment in which he keeps his friend's wisdom teeth and the screw that was in his own knee for seven months.



State, CPS must find a compromise for the sake of education

Forrest Claypool, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, seems to already be planning for a CPS doomsday.

Claypool announced at a Feb. 27 press conference that in the “worst case scenario,” the CPS academic year may end 13 school days early if state funding doesn’t come through. The district is \$130 million in debt for this fiscal year alone and is expecting a \$721 million teacher pension payment in June.

It’s unclear why Claypool chose to break the possible news now, but the announcement directly follows the Chicago Board of Education’s civil rights lawsuit against the State of Illinois. The district alleges that the Illinois Board of Education is neglecting minority students and writes, “the State treats CPS’ schoolchildren, who are predominantly African-American

and Hispanic, as second-class children, relegated to the back of the State’s education funding school bus,” according to a Feb. 14 Chicago Sun-Times article.

It’s also unclear how reducing school days benefits students, especially minority students. Though the school could save up to \$91 million by ending June 1 instead of June 20—and an additional \$5 million if summer school is cut—that leaves both students and parents at a severe disadvantage. Not only does summer school keep many children off the streets, but it also provides necessary meals and shelter for eight hours a day. Many depend on this service, and to take it away would show how little CPS and the state supports the children’s general welfare. It is a state’s responsibility to put education first, and for the last several years, neither the state nor CPS has done that.

Claypool’s decision is a power play from the district to get the state to pay up, but he shouldn’t be using students as pawns in the never-ending budget game.

Cutting 13 days leaves the school year below the legally required minimum and could result in a \$60 million fine, according to a March 2 WBEZ report. Announcing this as a worst-case scenario was the right move, but given the state’s financial woes, these kinds of repercussions should not be taken lightly.

In 2012, CPS teachers went on a seven-school-day strike, calling for a raise. While the teaching profession is underpaid in many parts of the country, CPS pays the highest salaries to teachers with a bachelor’s degree and five years experience of any of the 50 largest school districts in the country, according to a 2016 Illinois Policy

census. Still, students were forced into an nine-day “vacation” during the strike.

That may sound like any kid’s dream, but for some, this meant no hot lunches or supervision while parents worked. In October 2016, the Chicago’s Teacher Union threatened to strike after working without a contract since June 2015, as reported Oct. 17, 2016, by The Chronicle, before reaching an agreement minutes before midnight.

This is a vicious cycle that needs to be stopped. Celebrities such as Chance the Rapper, who donated \$1 million to CPS March 7, and Seahawks defensive lineman Michael Bennett—said he will also donate \$1 million—are not responsible for digging CPS out of the hole it is in when the state refuses to help. Families of students should not be responsible for CPS’ inability to give their kids a well-rounded education. Chance the Rapper’s speech to the press was correct: The biggest asset of CPS is its children and if the district can’t step in, the community must work to help cultivate creativity in learning and continue to put the children first, regardless of money.

Trump’s EPA cuts affect more than environment

The Trump administration is rumored to be preparing to slash the Environmental Protection Agency’s funding by 25 percent, which would practically destroy Great Lakes pollution cleanup programs, cutting them by a devastating 97 percent.

The cuts are a part of a budget outline the Trump administration will release the week of March 13. Both the EPA and State Department are expected to take massive funding reductions to cover Trump’s 10 percent increase for military spending, according to a March 3 Michigan Live article.

This seems to be the first step in Trump’s disastrous plan to practically “zero out” the EPA that he’s been talking about since he first stepped into office.

If the cuts to the EPA are approved, the Trump administration would practically

eliminate the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—which funds state and local projects that combat invasive species, restore wildlife habitats and clean up watersheds polluted by a Rust Belt economic legacy—by decreasing the funding from \$300 million to a minuscule \$10 million. The Great Lakes funding cuts would be the largest total dollar reduction on a list that includes cuts to climate change programs like research into chemicals that disrupt human reproductive and developmental systems and enforcement of pollution laws.

Although the GLRI received a Congress-approved \$300 million a year through 2021, the status of this program is far from safe. According to a Feb. 28 The Hill article, Republican critics of the EPA would like to target the program in the coming budget, which would have

grave public health and environmental consequences. Another casualty would be the Brownfields Cleanup Program, which works to clean up and reinvest in brownfields—properties with hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants—so they can be used as commercial or residential spaces. The economic and health benefits of these projects are considerable.

When programs such as the Clean Diesel initiative, which helps lower the rate of asthma and lung conditions, are at risk of being depleted as fast as non-renewable resources, people need to be reminded of just what this country could look like should the cuts be approved.

The country stands to lose nearly two dozen programs under the EPA, including the Great Lakes cleanup, dedicated to keeping America and its people healthy. These cuts endanger the nation’s health and commercial well-being.

While the Trump administration would rather put money toward things like more nuclear weapons for a nonexistent war against China, residents of Flint,

Michigan, are still without clean water. The effects of global warming are becoming more apparent, including the decreasing number of record low temperature events, according to NASA’s database.

The Trump administration has already shown how little it cares about protecting the environment. According to a Jan. 23 Washington Post article, the Trump administration decided to freeze the EPA’s grants and contracts on Jan. 24, which had the potential to affect everything from state-led climate research to environmental justice projects that are aimed at helping poor communities through localized efforts to improve air and water quality if kept frozen. However, the grants were restored on Jan. 30.

The consequences of funding cuts include high insurance rates, increased asthma and cancer rates and no access to clean water for less affluent communities. Faced with these realities, people must educate themselves and others and continue to fight for a clean country and world.

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Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or have strong beliefs about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2, you’ll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you. —**The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board**



COMMENTARY

Trump's new tricks of the trade may backfire

» **ETHAN STOCKING-ANDERSON**
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

President Donald Trump was celebrated for his relatively calm and coherent speech to Congress on Feb. 28. The more restrained tone may

be music to the ears of Americans weary from shrieking partisanship, but the protectionist nature of his proposed trade policy should alarm anyone concerned with maintaining a healthy standard of living, his own supporters included.

Trump isn't usually one for toeing the party line. Though most Republicans share his stances on taxes and immigration, his proposal for massive deficit spending on infrastructure is a far cry from what we've come to expect from right of the aisle. Perhaps the most intriguing departure from Republican standard-bearers is Trump's outspoken hostility toward international trade.

Lamenting the loss of manufacturing jobs in his speech to Congress, Trump suggested getting them back is simply a matter of erecting trade barriers, or tariffs. While the North American Free Trade Agreement has certainly played a role in the reorganization of global labor, it's misleading to blame it for the loss of manufacturing jobs, which have been in a steady decline since the 1970s, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data, more than 20 years before NAFTA came to be.

Increased efficiency from gains in technology contributes to job losses more directly than international trade. If lost manufacturing jobs could be brought back, even the ones that wouldn't already be replaced by automation would pale in comparison to the approximately five million jobs that depend on open trade between the U.S. and Mexico, according to a Nov. 4, 2016, report by the Wilson Center, a nonpartisan think tank.

The intricacies of international supply chains make it difficult to target specific trading partners without penalizing American sources of components or raw materials. Introducing tariffs on imports from Mexico and China wouldn't just affect those countries, it would do harm to the American businesses contributing value to them. Wilson Center data from 2011 ascribes 40 percent of Mexican export value as produced within the United States. Not to mention, there's nothing stopping foreign trading partners from reciprocating tariffs levied against them, which would raise the cost of living and could potentially lead to a disastrous all-out trade war.

In his speech to Congress, Trump cited Abraham Lincoln's admonition in 1847 against abandoning "protective policy," without acknowledging the different set of circumstances Lincoln confronted. As the world's understanding of the benefits of trade have improved since then, so has global prosperity. By definition, countries don't engage in trade that isn't mutually beneficial. Foreign imports to the United States contribute to a lower cost of living, which frees up consumer spending for other industries, including domestic ones.

The Trumpian view of trade as a zero-sum game, in which one country must win and another must lose, is irreconcilable with America's economic system. The Republicans should recognize this and reel him back because he's not really looking for a fair trade: He longs for the United States to become a "winner" as opposed to the loser he perceives it to be.

Unfortunately, his preferred policy of closing the nation off to free trade would likely put the U.S. at a significant disadvantage for years to come.

estockinganderson@chroniclemail.com

STUDENT POLL

What does International Women's Day mean to you?

"We get to speak out on what we believe in. This day is a reminder of the progress we've made [toward] freedom."



STACY BROWN
sophomore cinema art and science major

ANNE PAP

junior American Sign Language-English interpretation major



"[This day] is for women around the world because the patriarchy is global."



OMEGA DYSON

junior public relations major

"Empowering the woman next to you—no matter what she looks like—without prejudice or bias."

EDITORIAL CARTOON



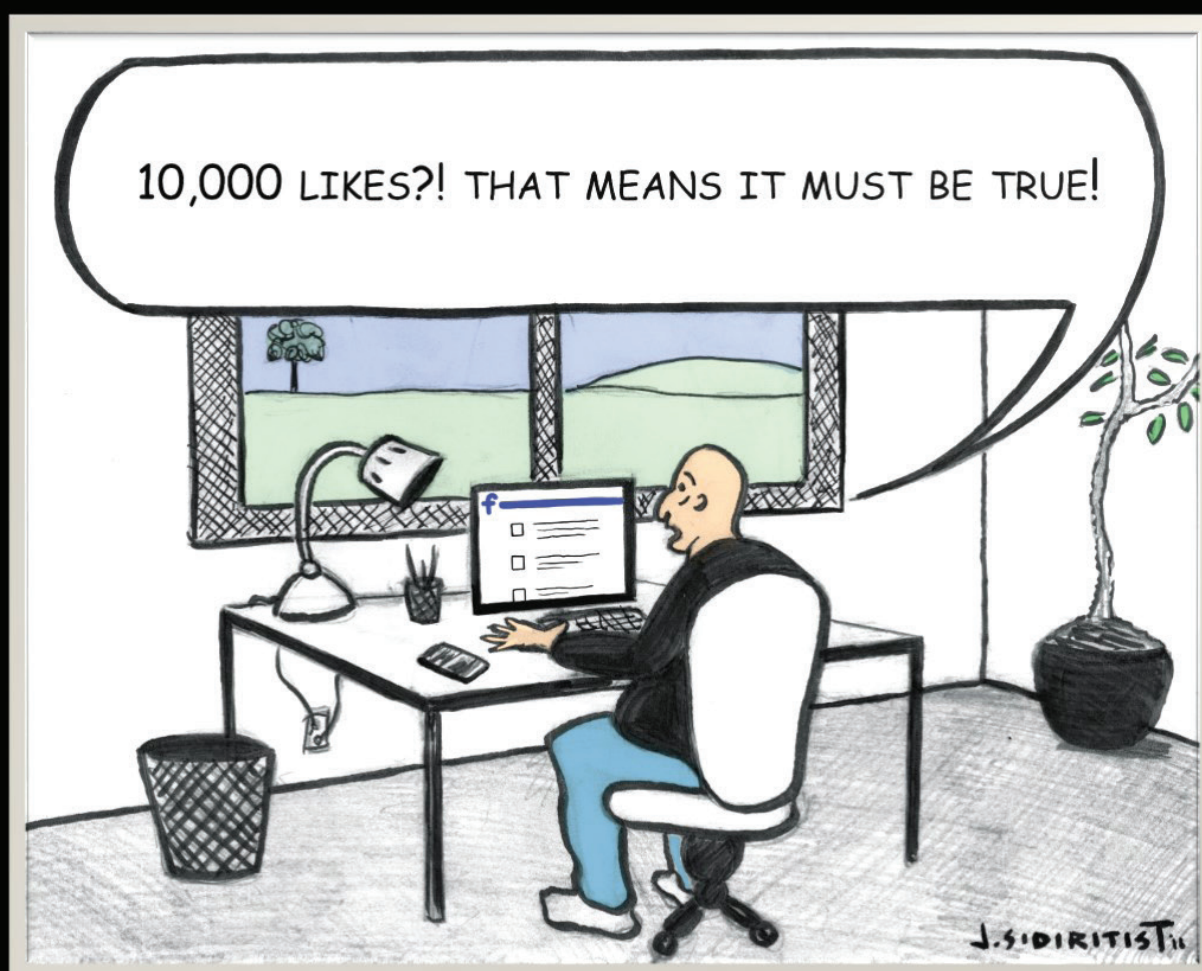
» **ALEXANDER AGHAYERE/CHRONICLE**

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James Tsitiridis ('17)



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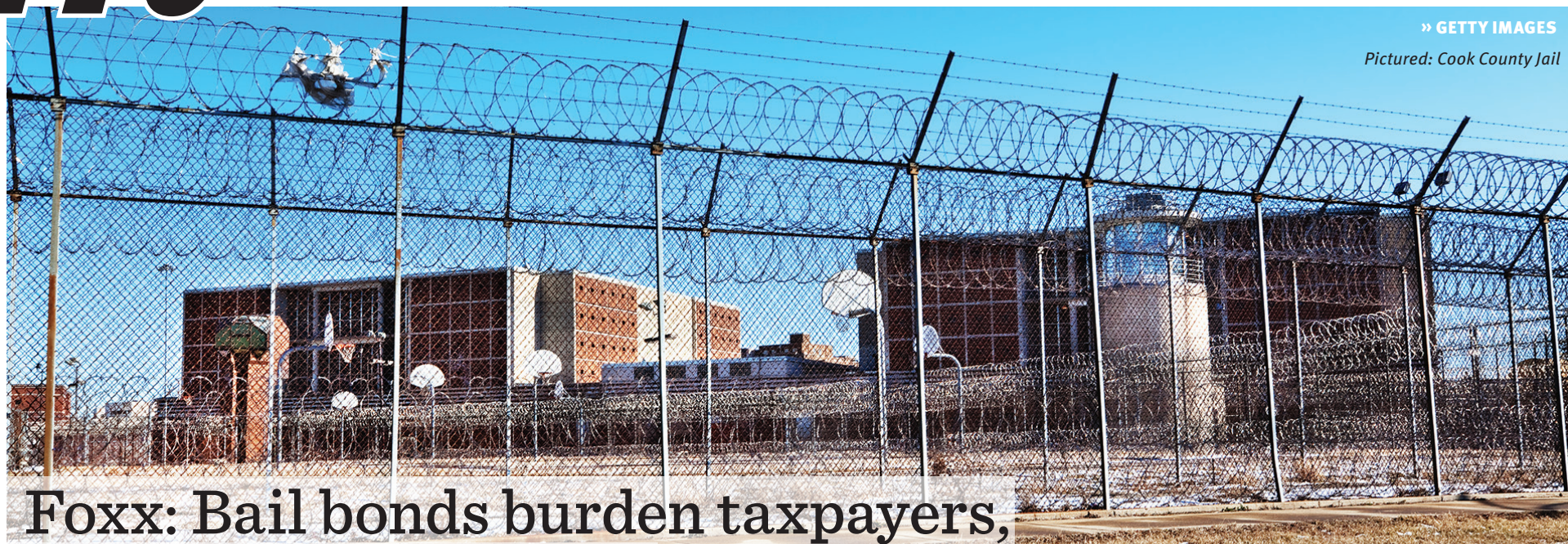
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» GETTY IMAGES

Pictured: Cook County Jail



Foxx: Bail bonds burden taxpayers, victimize poor people

Elected officials are introducing legislation and incorporating motions to fix a discriminatory bail bond system in Springfield and Cook County.

» **ERIC BRADACH**
METRO EDITOR

THE CURRENT SYSTEM for bail bonds in criminal cases favors those who can pay for them, and all Americans need to understand that, said Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx in an interview with The Chronicle.

Foxx agrees with critics of the current system who contend the fundamental fairness, and the presumption of innocence compel reducing excessive bail bonds, which discriminate against the poor.

Those with sufficient means can avoid pretrial detention as did Jason Van Dyke, the Chicago police officer who fatally shot 17-year-old Laquan McDonald in October 2014. Van Dyke was released after posting 10 percent of his \$1 million bond, Foxx said.

Foxx is supporting "agreed motions" requesting I-Bonds, which allow defendants to be released on their own recognizance when they are unable to pay a bond of \$1,000 or less, according to a March 1 press release.

The initiative, she said, is to ensure the jails and bond systems are used for its intended purposes: to detain those deemed to be a threat to public safety and to assess conditions for release.

"The unfortunate reality is we have a large concentration of folks in our jail who are there not because they are a threat to the public but simply because the bonds they'd been assigned are too high for them to pay," Foxx said.

According to the Cook County Sheriff's Office website as of press time, 181 of the 7,506 detainees at Cook County Jail are nonviolent offenders who are unable to post a \$1,000 or less bond. It costs approximately

\$160 a day to hold a detainee at the jail, according to Foxx, which as of press time, adds up to \$28,960 a day for taxpayers.

An enormous amount of money is spent to hold someone in a "cage and destroy people's lives," when it could be used for education or social services, said Max Suchan, an attorney and director of operations at the Chicago Community Bond Fund, a nonprofit organization that advocates ending the use of monetary bonds and providing financial assistance to individuals who are unable to pay them.

"If you don't have the money, you're sitting in jail for the entire time [before your trial]," said Suchan, who said he supports Foxx's reform plans. "In that time, you might lose your house, job or custody of your kids."

Suchan said his organization assisted a 46-year-old single mother of two in 2016 who was charged with aggravated battery against a senior citizen after a physical altercation with her former mother-in-law. She was unable to post the \$25,000 bond, sat in jail for 15 months and lost her job and home, he added.

"You shouldn't get into physical fights with anyone, elderly people especially," Suchan said. "[However,] greater harm happened and completely unraveled the fabric of her family, and it would have been preventable if she had money."

One of the I-Bond motions Foxx said her office had agreed to is for a detainee who had been sitting in jail since November 2016 because he was unable to pay the \$300 requirement to be released for retail theft of \$300.

"There is no reason where that makes any fiscal sense to house someone for their

offense that has been paid over by taxpayers two days after they've been in jail," Foxx said.

Individuals often face pretrial detention longer than the sentences they actually serve or found not guilty or have their cases are dismissed at a considerable cost to themselves and the system, according to Foxx.

According to Suchan, CCBF has posted more than \$300,000 in bonds to secure the release of 53 individuals and prioritize those with children, health issues or have been arrested in political demonstrations. However, only three would be eligible for I-Bonds under Foxx's reform.

Foxx said this is part of a broader set of initiatives throughout Illinois to make the bond system fairer.

In Springfield, Illinois State Rep. Elgie Sims, D-Chicago, introduced House Bill 3717 Feb. 10, which could abolish monetary bonds in Illinois for certain cases. The bill is currently being reviewed by the House Judiciary-Criminal Committee, of which Sims is the chairman, according to General Assembly records.

"There are currently [more than] 500 people who are sitting in Cook County Jail with bails of \$5,000 or less," Sims told The Chronicle. "[However,] there are individuals who could be considered a threat to public safety who are able to routinely bail themselves out of custody."

Suchan said monetary bonds should end entirely because they discriminate against lower-income and minority individuals.

"When you take away people's jobs, homes, kids and families—you don't leave people with a lot of options or legs to stand on to support themselves," Suchan said. "That makes us all less safe as a society, causes



» FILE PHOTO

Pictured: Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx

greater harm and the spiral effect on communities is devastating."

It is important to discuss and review plans to downsize the large number of detainees because Cook County Jail is the largest single-site jail in the country and has been under federal monitoring because of overcrowding, Foxx added.

Both Foxx and Sims insist their actions are just one of a series of critical reforms needed in the criminal system.

"When we have a criminal justice system that truly reflects community safety [and] our constitutional obligation to put a penalty in place that matches the crime—then we have a system that's working," Sims said. "We are trying to make sure we are focused on making communities safe and reforming a system that does not simply punish individuals because they have an inability to pay."

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»ARABELLA BRECK
 MANAGING EDITOR

South Korea emerging as democracy's dark horse

A president embroiled in accusations of bribery, coercion and abusing their authority was impeached March 9.

President Park Geun-hye made history as South Korea's first female president in 2013. However, her presidency has been historic in South Korea for other reasons as well.

She has faced protests since October 2016 because of accusations that she allowed longtime friend Choi Soon-sil to influence political decisions and used presidential power to strong-arm South Korean companies into giving money to Choi's foundations, according to a Dec. 8, 2016, Washington Post article.

There are many issues that could arise post-impeachment, including a presidential election that must be held in 60 days and a potentially changing relationship with North Korea or the U.S., according to a March 9 New York Times article. Despite concerns about a shifting political landscape, the world must recognize that this is a historic moment in the evolution of South Korean governance.

The last time a leader was ousted in South Korea was in 1960 when President Syngman Rhee stepped down amid violent protests—one of which left 125 people dead—that erupted because people believed Rhee's election for a fourth term was rigged.

The protests and process of Park's impeachment versus what happened in 1960 are drastically different and show incredible progress.

While there have been reports that two people died in demonstrations following the official announcement of Park's impeachment, protests leading up to this announcement have largely been peaceful, and South Korea seems to be emerging as a leader in demonstrating an effective democratic process.

A democracy is difficult to establish, especially in a country with a contentious political past, and a functioning democracy is even more so. A key part of the



process is allowing citizens to protest, while politicians reacting accordingly within the law.

As a result of protests and emerging information on Park's actions, an impeachment motion was filed with the support of 171 legislators, as reported Dec. 3, 2016, by Al Jazeera.

While these protests have not been met with formal or official resistance there were still attempts to silence protesters and their cause.

After one protest, organizers estimated 1.5 million attendees while police estimated only 260,000 attendees, according to a Nov. 26, 2016, New York Times article.

Despite attempts like this to undermine the impact of these protests and the impeachment of Park, people continued to fight for what they wanted from their government, and it is fair to say they were successful.

Politicians and citizens around the world can learn from South Korea. Legislators should be reacting to protests and the concerns of the people, even if it goes against the highest positions of power and influence.

South Korea also provides an example to people around the world frustrated with their government and their leaders. It is a glimmer of hope that their resistance efforts could create tangible change.

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Uptown residents knock retailer's connection to Trump



Uptown resident Jeffrey Littleton started a petition calling for the neighborhood's new Ross Dress for Less, 918 W. Montrose Ave., to remove Ivanka Trump's clothing line from its store.

» CAROLINE BOWEN
METRO REPORTER

ROSS DRESS FOR LESS opened a new location March 4 and became the only store to market merchandise

affiliated with President Donald Trump in Uptown, which is considered one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the city.

"Of all neighborhoods to sell Trump products, this seems like

one of the least responsive to it—the least accepting," said Jeffrey Littleton, an artist and Uptown resident who started an online petition March 1 to boycott the location at 918 W. Montrose Ave.

The retail chain is currently on the #GrabYourWallet list of 55 companies boycotted for affiliations with the Trump family's business ventures, according to the Grab Your Wallet website.

Littleton said in the past, presidents and their families have remained outside of the commercial and real estate sphere and that should continue with Trump.

"There is enough power in the presidency to satisfy all you need but [the Trump family] needs more," he said.

His petition, which asks for the Ivanka Trump line to be removed from Ross, currently has 111 supporters. He said he wanted to give people a platform outside of voting and protesting to express their resistance toward Trump.

"The Trump brand is everything that has been coming out of his mouth for the last year plus," Littleton said. "A lot of people are signing [the petition] because it's a way to give a nice, polite middle finger to the president of the United States."

Manager of the Uptown Ross store Yirian Perez said she had not heard about the petition before speaking with The Chronicle, adding that she has not received complaints from customers over Trump's brand being sold there.

"[The petition] it not affecting our store at all," Perez said.

Ross Corp. did not respond to email requests for a comment as of press time.

Lucy Diavolo, a musician and writer who lives in Rogers Park, said she walks past Ross regularly, and the store is busy because the public lacks information about Trump's business entanglements. The president's sympathy toward corporate America is "terrifying," she added.

Diavolo said the store is another example of the recent development trends in the North Side.

"Shiny new stores are an ugly form of development in Uptown, especially when there's a well-known tent city of homeless people nearby that are regularly being displaced," Diavolo said.

SEE ROSS, PAGE 39

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Chicago named top city for corporate investment

» JACKIE MURRAY
METRO REPORTER

FOR THE FOURTH consecutive year, the Chicagoland area was named the top location for corporate investment by Site Selection magazine, a resource for corporations and investors.

Winning the “top Metro” award from the magazine, which publishes expansion planning information, means the Chicago metropolitan area—including Elgin and Naperville—had more capital investment projects, specifically new or expanded facilities within private sectors, than any other qualifying city in 2016, according to editor-in-chief Mark Arend.

“[The ranking] indicates which areas have been particularly

successful in attracting capital investment,” Arend said. “That may be of interest to corporate investors who are looking at which areas are doing well.”

The city reported \$2.8 billion in corporate investment and nearly 14,000 new jobs this past year, according to a March 1 press release from the mayor’s office.

Matt Ragas, academic director for the Public Relations and Advertising Graduate Program at DePaul University, said there are many reasons why corporate businesses are attracted to Chicago, such as a successful transportation system, strong neighboring universities, notable cultural institutions and an emerging pool of talent.

“Young people are getting educated both within the state and

outside of the Midwest,” Ragas said. “Then, they move to Chicago for their career [because they] want to be in a big urban area.”

McDonald’s and Caterpillar Inc. are prime examples of companies who recently moved their headquarters to Chicago, showing how companies are taking advantage of the city’s resources and talent pool, Ragas said.

Chicago has also been going through a “startup revolution,” and that can be attributed to the nature of the Chicago business scene compared with other major cities, said Jeff Steele, lecturer in the Business & Entrepreneurship Department.

He said this is why he decided to open his business, The 3D Printer Experience, 333 N. LaSalle Drive., in Chicago rather than another city.

“[Los Angeles] was too spread out, New York was too dense [with] too many other distractions,” Steele said. “But [in] downtown Chicago, something like this would pop.”

According to Steele, other key attractions for businesses include the way “Chicago loves Chicago” and will promote its own, which will give a company a better chance to stand out among the other competition.

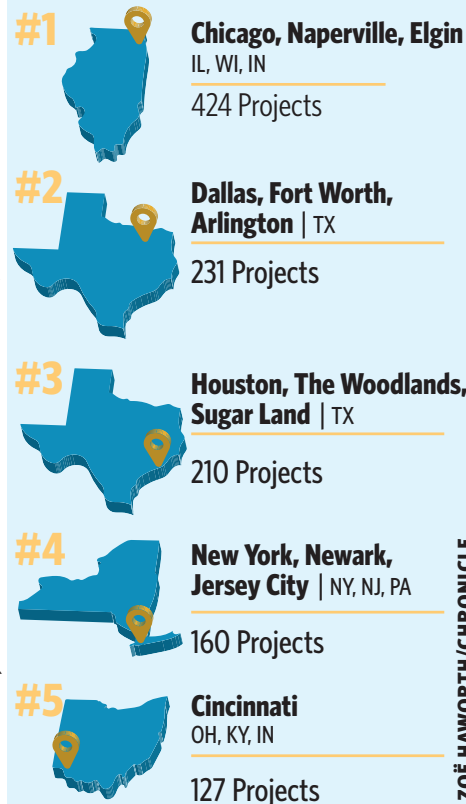
Ragas said companies are striving to involve diversity inclusion initiatives, and Chicago help provide that opportunity for them.

“Demographics of the country are changing,” Ragas said. “I don’t know of a big company right now that’s not focused on trying to [implement] a more diverse workforce.”

2016 Project Rankings

Top 5 Metros with population over 1 million

Listed by metro, state and number of projects
Information courtesy Site Selection Magazine



SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 39

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US and Mexico: friends or foes?

» **JACKIE MURRAY**
METRO REPORTER

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION has placed U.S.-Mexican relations in a precarious state, noted panelists at a recent discussion hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

“What [Donald Trump’s] campaign and the first month of [his]



»PHOTOS KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

administration has done is [throw the relationship] up in the air,” said Arturo Sarukhan, panelist and former Mexican ambassador to the U.S.

The council, a nonpartisan organization, hosted a March 6 open forum at 130 E. Randolph St. to discuss the uncertain future of relations between the two countries as the Trump administration continues to characterize Mexico as a trade rival and source of undocumented immigrants rather than as an ally and market for U.S. goods.

The two countries historically have had a strategic relationship to work cooperatively to solve common problems in a way that was mutually beneficial for

Eric Farnsworth, vice president of the Americas Society and Council of the Americas, said he thinks trust is the fundamental currency of politics.

well-being, security and prosperity, according to Sarukhan.

Trump’s promise to build a wall at the U.S.-Mexican border has “poisoned” public perceptions on both sides of the border after Mexico was treated like an “electoral piñata” in the 2016 election, he added.

Eric Farnsworth, vice president of the Americas Society and Council of the Americas, said trust between neighboring nations is the fundamental currency of politics. The Obama administration had a relationship with Mexico developed on trust, and the current political climate is fighting against that collaboration, he added.

“Trust doesn’t develop overnight,” Farnsworth said. “You can lose it overnight, but it takes a generation to develop.”

The North American Free Trade Agreement, which Trump heavily criticized during his campaign, is

Arturo Sarukhan, former Ambassador of Mexico to the U.S., said Mexico was treated like an “electoral piñata” in the 2016 presidential election.



an example of what trust can accomplish, according to Sarukhan. The 1994 three-country trade accord among the U.S., Mexico and Canada is responsible for \$1.4 billion a day of trade in both directions, and Mexico is the second-largest buyer of U.S. exports worldwide after Canada.

The agreement symbolically signified Mexico opening reciprocally to the United States, said moderator and senior fellow of the CCGA Phil Levy.

NAFTA has done what it was designed to do—increase jobs, trade and investment within the three countries—according to Farnsworth. Though Farnsworth has been with NAFTA since its inception, he recognizes it has its share of flaws.

Farnsworth said for the U.S. to engage in a free trade agreement

with a developing country was “cutting edge” for its time, but noted the agreement could be modernized, especially because each country’s economic futures were impossible to predict.

“What we’re doing is asking NAFTA to organize the majority of trade among three countries in a way that didn’t contemplate the direction the economy has subsequently gone in terms of technology and developing all kinds of sectors,” he said.

SEE MEXICO, PAGE 39

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» ESTHER BELL/CHRONICLE

Westcott Elementary School students held up a \$1 million donation to Chicago Public Schools from local artist Chance The Rapper at a school press conference March 6, 409 W 80th St. Chance's foundation, Social Works, donated \$10,000 of the \$1 million to 10 CPS arts programs; Nathan S. Davis Elementary School, Mahalia Jackson Elementary School, Charles Carroll Elementary School, Westcott Elementary School, Roberto Clemente High School, Paul Robeson High School, Orr Academy High School, Hirsch Metropolitan High School, Benito Juarez Community Academy and Fenger Academy High School

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ROSS, FROM PAGE 33

Chris Von Zeleny, an Uptown resident and artist at Tattoo Factory, 4441 N. Broadway St., a block away from Ross, said he does not frequent any stores related to Trump. However, many residents in the neighborhood will not care if a dress or shoe tag has Ivanka Trump's name on it, he added.

"This neighborhood is more about finding a really good deal, rather than figuring out the brand," Von Zeleny said. "If it says Ivanka, but it's 90 percent off, they are going to buy it."

Littleton said he ultimately does not care whether people sign the petition, as long as their spending habits mirror their political views about Trump.

"It is a brand associated with all the ugliness that is out there so we should say something about it," he said. "If somebody reads it and they don't sign it, but they don't shop at Ross because of it, then it was 100 percent successful."

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BUSINESS, FROM PAGE 34

While ranking lists such as Site Selection's may influence companies' location decisions, some aspects of Chicago might discourage relocation, including the fiscal health of the city, sales and property taxes and the city's high crime rates, according to Ragas.

"When people think about Chicago right now, [they ask], 'What would be the environment in terms of crime?'" Ragas said. "What is the perception people have of the city in terms of is this going to be a safe place?"

In order to maintain its title, Ragas said the city must continue to make businesses feel as if coming to Chicago was the right investment for their future.

"There needs to be positive experiences for these businesses," he said. "If we're going to continue to have this momentum of business, then [they] have to feel the city of Chicago can make improvements to its finances."

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MEXICO, FROM PAGE 36

Sarukhan said he does not think participation in NAFTA has ever played a driving role in a Mexican presidential campaign as it did in the 2016 U.S. campaign. That attitude might change if conversations unravel and Trump withdraws the U.S. from the treaty, he added.

Democratic and Republican politicians have been using NAFTA

as the "easy answer" scapegoat for unemployment, Farnsworth said.

"It's not just a President Trump thing; Hillary Clinton on the campaign said the same thing," he said. "Both leading political parties in the U.S. [are] simultaneously saying NAFTA is the problem."

Farnsworth said a breakdown of U.S.-Mexico relations could dial up

the volume of rhetoric on both sides of the border.

"Mexico and the U.S. have done great things together, [and] we can continue to do [that]," Sarukhan said in response. "The one thing we're not going to do together is build a wall."

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» KEVIN TIONGSON/CHRONICLE

Phil Levy, Arturo Sarukhan and Eric Farnsworth spoke on the future relationship of neighbors U.S. and Mexico during a March 6. panel at The Chicago Council of Global Affairs, 130 E. Randolph St.

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